

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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DRAFTED BY JVMONTVILLE NEA/AFN

APPROVED BY NEA ALATHERTON

NEA/AFN MWWILEY

NEA/RA SSCHIFF

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R 281439Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139957

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN OFFICIAL DISCUSSES MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. MOROCCAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FINANCE ABDELKAMEL REGHAY CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON JUNE 25. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING CHIEF OF DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION - LT.COL. MOHAMED ACHAHBAR AND AMBASSADOR SENOUSI. REGHAYE CONVEYED WARMEST GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY FROM KING AS WELL AS KING'S GRATITUDE FOR ACTION TO DATE ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

2. ATHERTON SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT MILITARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE GONE WELL AND THAT GOM NOW UNDERSTANDS THAT OUR PROBLEMS IN SUPPLY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE UNUSUAL SHORTAGE OF EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY TANKS, AND KEEN COMPETITION FOR AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT NOT ONLY FROM OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO FROM U.S. ARMED FORCES.

3. ATHERTON ALSO SAID WE REALIZE SWITCH FROM DIRECT FMS CREDIT TO INDIRECT CREDIT GUARANTEES WAS DIFFICULT FOR
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MOROCCO AS WITH MANY OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. PROBLEM

WAS THAT AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FMS PROGRAMS IS LIMITED AND DEMANDS FOR FMS KEEP GROWING. THE BEST WAY TO MEET THEIR NEED IS TO USE THE INDIRECT CREDIT APPROACH AND THIS SITUATION UNLIKELY TO CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. REGHAYE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT HE SAID KING HASSAN WOULD LIKE OUR FMS PROGRAM TO REFLECT THE "PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP" THAT NOW EXISTS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND THE UNITED STATES. KING HOPES, HE SAID, THAT THE FMS PROGRAM WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED IN NEW FISCAL YEAR. ATHERTON REMINDED REGHAYE THAT THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL IS BEFORE CONGRESS AND IT WILL BE MONTHS BEFORE ITS FATE WAS KNOWN. HE ASSURED REGHAYE THAT WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO BE HELPFUL.

5. REGHAYE AND SENOUSI ALSO REQUESTED DEPARTMENT'S HELP IN TRYING TO SHORTEN LEAD TIME ON DELIVERY OF CERTAIN TYPES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ATHERTON SAID WE WOULD TRY.

6. MEETING WAS UNIFORMLY CORDIAL AND MOROCCANS SEEMED QUITE SATISFIED BY OUR ACTIONS TO DATE. SISCO

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